

In the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions of the claims in the application.

1-24. (canceled)

25. (original) A cell comprising a nucleic acid molecule wherein said nucleic acid molecule comprises:

- a) a 3' splice region comprising a branch point, a pyrimidine tract and a 3' splice acceptor site; and
- b) a nucleotide sequence to be *trans*-spliced to the target pre-mRNA; wherein said nucleic acid molecule is recognized by nuclear splicing components within the cell.

26. (currently amended) A cell comprising a nucleic acid molecule wherein said nucleic acid molecule comprises:

- a) a 5' splice site; and
- ~~b) a spacer region that separates the 5' splice site from the target binding domain; and~~
- ~~b~~b) a nucleotide sequence to be *trans*-spliced to the target pre-mRNA; wherein said nucleic acid molecule is recognized by nuclear splicing components within the cell.

27. (original) The cell of Claim 25 wherein the nucleic acid molecule further comprises a 5' donor site.

28. (original) The cell of Claim 25 or 26 wherein the nucleotide sequences to be *trans*-spliced to the target pre-mRNA comprises a nucleotide sequence tag.

29. (original) A cell comprising a recombinant vector wherein said vector expresses a nucleic acid molecule comprising:

- a) a 3' splice region comprising a branchpoint, a pyrimidine tract and a 3' splice acceptor site; and

- b) a nucleotide sequence to be *trans*-spliced to the target pre-mRNA; wherein said nucleic acid molecule is recognized by nuclear splicing components within the cell.

30. (original) A cell comprising a recombinant vector wherein said vector expresses a nucleic acid molecule comprising:

- a) a 5' splice site; and

- b) a nucleotide sequence to be *trans*-spliced to the target pre-mRNA; wherein said nucleic acid molecule is recognized by nuclear splicing components within the cell.

31. (original) The cell of Claim 29 wherein the nucleic acid molecule further comprises a 5' donor site.

32. (original) A method of producing a chimeric RNA molecule in a cell comprising: contacting a target pre-mRNA expressed in the cell with a nucleic acid molecule recognized by nuclear splicing components wherein said nucleic acid molecule comprises:

- a) a 3' splice region comprising a branch point, a pyrimidine tract and a 3' splice acceptor site; and
- b) a nucleotide sequence to be *trans*-spliced to the target pre-mRNA; under conditions in which a portion of the nucleic acid molecule is *trans*-spliced to a portion of the target pre-mRNA to form a chimeric RNA within the cell.

33. (original) A method of producing a chimeric RNA molecule in a cell comprising: contacting a target pre-mRNA expressed within the cell with a nucleic acid molecule recognized by nuclear splicing components wherein said nucleic acid molecule comprises:

- a) a 5' splice site; and
- d) a nucleotide sequence to be *trans*-spliced to the target pre-mRNA; wherein said nucleic acid molecule is recognized by nuclear splicing components within the cell.

34. (original) A method of Claim 32 wherein the nucleic acid molecule further comprises a 5' donor site.

35. (original) The method of Claim 32, wherein the chimeric RNA molecule comprises a nucleotide sequence tag.

36. (original) An eukaryotic expression vector wherein said vector expresses a nucleic acid molecule comprising:

- a) a 3' splice region comprising a branchpoint, a pyrimidine tract and a 3' splice acceptor site; and
- b) a nucleotide sequence to be *trans*-spliced to the target pre-mRNA; wherein said nucleic acid molecule is recognized by nuclear splicing components within the cell.

37. (original) An eukaryotic expression vector wherein said vector expresses a nucleic acid molecule comprising:

- a) a 5' splice site; and
- d) a nucleotide sequence to be *trans*-spliced to the target pre-mRNA; wherein said nucleic acid molecule is recognized by nuclear splicing components within the cell.

38. (original) The vector of Claim 36 wherein the nucleic acid molecule further comprises a 5' donor site.

39. (original) An expression library comprising recombinant expression vectors wherein said vectors expresses a nucleic acid molecule comprising:

- a) a 3' splice region comprising a branchpoint, a pyrimidine tract and a 3' splice acceptor site; and
- d) a nucleotide sequence to be *trans*-spliced to the target pre-mRNA; wherein said nucleic acid molecule is recognized by nuclear splicing components within the cell.

40. (original) An expression library comprising recombinant expression vectors wherein said vector expresses a nucleic acid molecule comprising:

- a) a 5' splice site; and
- b) a nucleotide sequence to be *trans*-spliced to the target pre-mRNA; wherein said nucleic acid molecule is recognized by nuclear splicing components within the cell.

41. (original) The expression library of Claim 39 wherein the nucleic acid molecule further comprises a 5' donor site.

42. (original) The expression library of Claim 39 or 40 wherein the nucleotide sequence to be spliced to the target pre-mRNA comprises a nucleotide sequence tag.

43. (original) A method for mapping exon-intron boundaries in pre-mRNA molecules comprising:

- (i) contacting a nucleic acid molecule to a target pre-mRNA molecule, under conditions in which a portion of the nucleic acid molecule is *trans*-spliced to a portion of the target pre-mRNA to form a chimeric mRNA;
- (ii) amplifying the chimeric mRNA molecule;
- (iii) selectively purifying the amplified molecule; and
- (iv) determining the nucleotide sequence of the amplified molecule thereby identifying the intron-exon boundaries.

44. (new) A cell comprising a nucleic acid molecule wherein said nucleic acid molecule comprises:

- a) one or more target binding domains wherein said target binding domain is (i) between 201 and 600 nucleotides in length; or (ii) between 10 and 14 nucleotides in length and wherein said target binding domain binds to a target pre-mRNA expressed within a cell;
- b) a 3' splice region comprising a branchpoint, a pyrimidine tract and a 3' splice acceptor site;
- c) a spacer region that separates the 3' splice region from the target binding domain; and
- d) nucleotide sequence to be *trans*-spliced to the target pre-mRNA; wherein said nucleic acid molecule is recognized by nuclear splicing components within the cell.

45. (new) A cell comprising a nucleic acid molecule wherein said nucleic acid molecule comprises:

- a) one or more target binding domains wherein said target binding domain is (i) between 201 and 600 nucleotides in length; or (ii) between 10 and 14 nucleotides in length and wherein said target binding domain binds to a target pre-mRNA expressed within a cell;
- b) a 5' splice site;

c) a spacer region that separates the 5' splice site from the target binding domain; and

d) a nucleotide sequence to be *trans*-spliced to the target pre-mRNA; wherein said nucleic acid molecule is recognized by nuclear splicing components within the cell.

46. (new) The cell of Claim 44 wherein the nucleic acid molecule further comprises a 5' donor site.

47. (new) The cell of Claim 44 wherein the nucleic acid molecule further comprises a safety nucleotide sequence comprising one or more complementary sequences that bind to one or more sides of the 3' splice region.

48. (new) The cell of Claim 45 wherein the nucleic acid molecule further comprises a safety nucleotide sequence comprising one or more complementary sequences that bind to one or more sides of the 5' splice region.

49. (new) The cell of Claim 44 wherein the nucleic acid molecule further comprises sequences encoding a translatable protein product.

50. (new) The cell of Claim 44 or 46 wherein the nucleic acid molecule further comprises a nucleotide sequence containing a translational stop codon.

51. (new) A cell comprising a recombinant vector wherein said vector expresses a nucleic acid molecule comprising:

- a) one or more target binding domains wherein said target binding domain is (i) between 201 and 600 nucleotides in length; or (ii) between 10 and 14 nucleotides in length and target binding domain binds to a target pre-mRNA expressed within a cell;
- b) a 3' splice region comprising a branchpoint, a pyrimidine tract and a 3' splice acceptor site;
- c) a spacer region that separates the 3' splice region from the target binding domain; and
- d) a nucleotide sequence to be *trans*-spliced to the target pre-mRNA; wherein said nucleic acid molecule is recognized by nuclear splicing components within the cell.

52. (new) A cell comprising a recombinant vector wherein said vector expresses a nucleic acid molecule comprising:

- a) one or more target binding domains wherein said target binding domain is (i) between 201 and 600 nucleotides in length; or (ii) between 10 and 14 nucleotides in length and wherein the target binding domain binds to a target pre-mRNA expressed within a cell;
- b) a 5' splice site;
- c) a spacer region that separates the 5' splice site from the target binding domain; and

d) a nucleotide sequence to be *trans*-spliced to the target pre-mRNA; wherein said nucleic acid molecule is recognized by nuclear splicing components within the cell.

53. (new) The cell of Claim 51 wherein the nucleic acid molecule further comprises a 5' donor site.

54. (new) A method of producing a chimeric RNA molecule in a cell comprising:
contacting a target pre-mRNA expressed in the cell with a nucleic acid molecule recognized by nuclear splicing components wherein said nucleic acid molecule comprises:

a) one or more target binding domains wherein said target binding domain is (i) between 201 and 600 nucleotides in length; or (ii) between 10 and 14 nucleotides in length and wherein the target binding domain binds to a target pre-mRNA expressed within a cell;

b) a 3' splice region comprising a branchpoint, a pyrimidine tract and a 3' splice acceptor site;

c) a spacer region that separates the 3' splice region from the target binding domain; and

d) a nucleotide sequence to be *trans*-spliced to the target pre-mRNA; under conditions in which a portion of the nucleic acid molecule is *trans*-spliced to a portion of the target pre-mRNA to form a chimeric RNA within the cell.

55. (new) A method of producing a chimeric RNA molecule in a cell comprising:

contacting a target pre-mRNA expressed within the cell with a nucleic acid molecule recognized by nuclear splicing components wherein said nucleic acid molecule comprises:

- a) one or more target binding domains wherein said target binding domain is (i) between 201 and 600 nucleotides in length; or (ii) between 10 and 14 nucleotides in length and wherein the target binding domain binds to a target pre-mRNA expressed within a cell;
- b) a 5' splice site;
- c) a spacer region that separates the 5' splice site from the target binding domain; and
- d) a nucleotide sequence to be *trans*-spliced to the target pre-mRNA;

wherein said nucleic acid molecule is recognized by nuclear splicing components within the cell.

56. (new) A method of Claim 54 wherein the nucleic acid molecule further comprises a 5' donor site.

57. (new) The method of Claim 54 wherein the chimeric RNA molecule comprises sequences encoding a translatable protein.

58. (new) The method of Claim 54 wherein the chimeric RNA molecule comprises sequences encoding a toxin.

59. (new) A nucleic acid molecule comprising:

- a) one or more target binding domains wherein said target binding domain is (i) between 201 and 600 nucleotides in length; or (ii) between 10 and 14 nucleotides in length and wherein the target binding domain binds to a target pre-mRNA expressed within a cell;
- b) a 3' splice region comprising a branchpoint, a pyrimidine tract and a 3' splice acceptor site;
- c) a spacer region that separates the 3' splice region from the target binding domain;
- d) a safety sequence comprising one or more complementary sequences that bind to one or both sides of the 3' splice site; and
- e) a nucleotide sequence to be *trans*-spliced to the target pre-mRNA; wherein said nucleic acid molecule is recognized by nuclear splicing components within the cell.

60. (new) A nucleic acid molecule comprising :

- a) one or more target binding domains wherein said target binding domain is (i) between 201 and 600 nucleotides in length; or (ii) between 10 and 14 nucleotides in length and wherein the target

binding domain binds to a target pre-mRNA expressed within a cell;

- b) a 5' splice site;
- c) a spacer region that separates the 5' splice site from the target binding domain;
- d) a safety sequence comprising one or more complementary sequences that bind to one or both sides of the 5' splice site; and
- e) a nucleotide sequence to be *trans*-spliced to the target pre-mRNA; wherein said nucleic acid molecule is recognized by nuclear splicing components within the cell.

61. (new) The nucleic acid molecule of Claim 59 wherein the nucleic acid molecule further comprises a 5' donor site.

62. (new) The nucleic acid molecule of Claim 59 or 60 wherein the nucleic acid molecule further comprises sequences encoding a translatable protein product.

63. (new) The nucleic acid molecule of Claim 59 or 60 wherein the translatable protein product is a toxin.

64. (new) An expression vector wherein said vector expresses a nucleic acid molecule comprising:

- a) one or more target binding domains wherein said target binding domain is (i) between 201 and 600 nucleotides in length; or (ii) between 10 and 14 nucleotides in length and wherein the target

binding domain binds to a target pre-mRNA expressed within a cell;

- b) a 3' splice region comprising a branchpoint, a pyrimidine tract and a 3' splice acceptor site;
- c) a spacer region that separates the 3' splice region from the target binding domain; and
- d) a nucleotide sequence to be *trans*-spliced to the target pre-mRNA; wherein said nucleic acid molecule is recognized by nuclear splicing components within the cell.

65. (new) A eukaryotic expression vector wherein said vector expresses a nucleic acid molecule comprising:

- a) one or more target binding domains wherein said target binding domain is (i) between 201 and 600 nucleotides in length; or (ii) between 10 and 14 nucleotides in length and wherein the target binding domain binds to a target pre-mRNA expressed within a cell;
- b) a 5' splice site;
- c) a spacer region that separates the 5' splice site from the target binding domain; and
- d) a nucleotide sequence to be *trans*-spliced to the target pre-mRNA; wherein said nucleic acid molecule is recognized by nuclear splicing components within the cell.

66. (new) The vector of Claim 64 wherein the nucleic acid molecule further comprises a 5' donor site.

67. (new) The expression vector of Claim 64 or 65 further comprising a safety sequence comprising one or more complementary sequences that bind to one or both sides of the splice site.

68. (new) A cell comprising a nucleic acid molecule wherein said nucleic acid molecule comprises:

- a) one or more target binding domains wherein said target binding domain is between 15 and 200 nucleotides in length and that target binding of the nucleic acid molecule to a target pre-mRNA expressed within a cell;
- b) a 3' splice region comprising a branchpoint, a pyrimidine tract and a 3' splice acceptor site;
- c) a spacer region that separates the 3' splice region from the target binding domain; and
- d) nucleotide sequence to be *trans*-spliced to the target pre-mRNA; wherein said nucleic acid molecule is recognized by nuclear splicing components within the cell.

69. (new) A cell comprising a nucleic acid molecule wherein said nucleic acid molecule comprises:

a) one or more target binding domains wherein said target binding domain is between 15 and 200 nucleotides in length and that target binding of the nucleic acid molecule to a target pre-mRNA expressed within a cell;

b) a 5' splice site;

c) a spacer region that separates the 5' splice site from the target binding domain; and

d) a nucleotide sequence to be *trans*-spliced to the target pre-mRNA; wherein said nucleic acid molecule is recognized by nuclear splicing components within the cell.

70. (new) The cell of Claim 68 wherein the nucleic acid molecule further comprises a 5' donor site.

71. (new) The cell of Claim 68 wherein the nucleic acid molecule further comprises a safety nucleotide sequence comprising one or more complementary sequences that bind to one or more sides of the 3' splice region.

72. (new) The cell of Claim 69 wherein the nucleic acid molecule further comprises a safety nucleotide sequence comprising one or more complementary sequences that bind to one or more sides of the 5' splice region.

73. (new) The cell of Claim 68 wherein the nucleic acid molecule further comprises sequences encoding a translatable protein product.

74. (new) The cell of Claim 68 or 70 wherein the nucleic acid molecule further comprises a nucleotide sequence containing a translational stop codon.

75. (new) A cell comprising a recombinant vector wherein said vector expresses a nucleic acid molecule comprising:

- a) one or more target binding domains wherein said target binding domain is between 15 and 200 nucleotides in length and that target binding of the nucleic acid molecule a target pre-mRNA expressed within a cell;
- b) a 3' splice region comprising a branchpoint, a pyrimidine tract and a 3' splice acceptor site;
- c) a spacer region that separates the 3' splice region from the target binding domain; and
- d) a nucleotide sequence to be *trans*-spliced to the target pre-mRNA; wherein said nucleic acid molecule is recognized by nuclear splicing components within the cell.

76. (new) A cell comprising a recombinant vector wherein said vector expresses a nucleic acid molecule comprising:

- a) one or more target binding domains wherein said target binding domain is between 15 and 200 nucleotides in length and that target binding of the nucleic acid molecule a target pre-mRNA expressed within a cell;
- b) a 5' splice site;

- c) a spacer region that separates the 5' splice site from the target binding domain; and
- d) a nucleotide sequence to be *trans*-spliced to the target pre-mRNA; wherein said nucleic acid molecule is recognized by nuclear splicing components within the cell.

77. (new) The cell of Claim 75 wherein the nucleic acid molecule further comprises a 5' donor site.

78. (new) A method of producing a chimeric RNA molecule in a cell comprising:
contacting a target pre-mRNA expressed in the cell with a nucleic acid molecule recognized by nuclear splicing components wherein said nucleic acid molecule comprises:

- a) one or more target binding domains wherein said target binding domain is between 15 and 200 nucleotides in length and that target binding of the nucleic acid molecule to a target pre-mRNA expressed within a cell;
- b) a 3' splice region comprising a branchpoint, a pyrimidine tract and a 3' splice acceptor site;
- c) a spacer region that separates the 3' splice region from the target binding domain; and
- d) a nucleotide sequence to be *trans*-spliced to the target pre-mRNA; under conditions in which a portion of the nucleic acid molecule is

trans-spliced to a portion of the target pre-mRNA to form a chimeric RNA within the cell.

79. (new) A method of producing a chimeric RNA molecule in a cell comprising:

contacting a target pre-mRNA expressed within the cell with a nucleic acid molecule recognized by nuclear splicing components wherein said nucleic acid molecule comprises:

- a) one or more target binding domains wherein said target binding domain is between 15 and 200 nucleotides in length and that target binding of the nucleic acid molecules target pre-mRNA expressed within a cell;
- b) a 5' splice site;
- c) a spacer region that separates the 5' splice site from the target binding domain; and
- d) a nucleotide sequence to be *trans*-spliced to the target pre-mRNA;

wherein said nucleic acid molecule is recognized by nuclear splicing components within the cell.

80. (new) A method of Claim 78 wherein the nucleic acid molecule further comprises a 5' donor site.

81. (new) The method of Claim 78 wherein the chimeric RNA molecule comprises sequences encoding a translatable protein.

82. (new) The method of Claim 78 wherein the chimeric RNA molecule comprises sequences encoding a toxin.

83. (new) A nucleic acid molecule comprising:

- a) one or more target binding domains wherein said target binding domain is between 15 and 200 nucleotides in length and that target binding of the nucleic acid molecule to a target pre-mRNA expressed within a cell;
- b) a 3' splice region comprising a branchpoint, a pyrimidine tract and a 3' splice acceptor site;
- c) a spacer region that separates the 3' splice region from the target binding domain;
- d) a safety sequence comprising one or more complementary sequences that bind to one or both sides of the 3' splice site; and
- e) a nucleotide sequence to be *trans*-spliced to the target pre-mRNA; wherein said nucleic acid molecule is recognized by nuclear splicing components within the cell.

84. (new) A nucleic acid molecule comprising :

- a) one or more target binding domains wherein said target binding domain is between 15 and 200 nucleotides in length and that target binding of the nucleic acid molecule a target pre-mRNA expressed within a cell;

- b) a 5' splice site;
- c) a spacer region that separates the 5' splice site from the target binding domain;
- d) a safety sequence comprising one or more complementary sequences that bind to one or both sides of the 5' splice site; and
- e) a nucleotide sequence to be *trans*-spliced to the target pre-mRNA; wherein said nucleic acid molecule is recognized by nuclear splicing components within the cell.

85. (new) The nucleic acid molecule of Claim 83 wherein the nucleic acid molecule further comprises a 5' donor site.

86. (new) The nucleic acid molecule of Claim 83 or 84 wherein the nucleic acid molecule further comprises sequences encoding a translatable protein product.

87. (new) The nucleic acid molecule of Claim 86 wherein the translatable protein product is a toxin.

88. (new) An expression vector wherein said vector expresses a nucleic acid molecule comprising:

- a) one or more target binding domains wherein said target binding domain is between 15 and 200 nucleotides in length and that target binding of the nucleic acid molecule to a target pre-mRNA expressed within a cell;

- b) a 3' splice region comprising a branchpoint, a pyrimidine tract and a 3' splice acceptor site;
- c) a spacer region that separates the 3' splice region from the target binding domain; and
- d) nucleotide sequence to be *trans*-spliced to the target pre-mRNA; wherein said nucleic acid molecule is recognized by nuclear splicing components within the cell.

89. (new) A eukaryotic expression vector wherein said vector expresses a nucleic acid molecule comprising:

- a) one or more target binding domains wherein said target binding domain is between 15 and 200 nucleotides in length and that target binding of the nucleic acid molecule to a target pre-mRNA expressed within a cell;
- b) a 5' splice site;
- c) a spacer region that separates the 5' splice site from the target binding domain; and
- d) a nucleotide sequence to be *trans*-spliced to the target pre-mRNA; wherein said nucleic acid molecule is recognized by nuclear splicing components within the cell.

90. (new) The vector of Claim 88 wherein the nucleic acid molecule further comprises a 5' donor site.

91. (new) The expression vector of Claim 88 or 89 further comprising a safety sequence comprising one or more complementary sequences that bind to one or both sides of the splice site.